



**U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
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News Release

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Corps extends Snake River study comment period until April 30

Walla Walla, Wash. -- The public comment period on the draft of the Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon Migration Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement has been extended to April 30, an official from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said today.

The Corps extended the comment period -- originally scheduled to end March 31 -- after receiving several requests from regional agencies and groups. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife sent in a formal request that was approved today by Lt. Col. William E. Bulen, Jr., Walla Walla District commander.

The Corps' draft FR/EIS was released in December 1999. It focuses on ways to modify the four lower Snake River dams to improve migration conditions for endangered or threatened juvenile salmon and steelhead stocks listed under the Endangered Species Act.

According to Brig. Gen. Carl A. Strock, commander of the Corps' Northwestern Division, the next step is to analyze and respond to the comments and identify concerns.

"We intend to have a preferred alternative identified and documented later this year, following with a record of decision in 2001," said Strock.

The Corps selection of a preferred alternative will not be based on a head count or show of hands, Strock emphasized.

"The Corps' EIS is a public process in which we carefully consider a range of alternatives in light of the engineering requirements, biological/environmental effects, economic effects, the cultural and social effects. Included in this analysis are treaty obligations, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act," said Strock.

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COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED\2-2-2

Public meetings for the Corps' draft FR/EIS were held throughout the region in February and March. More than 8,700 people attended the meetings. To date, the Corps has received more than 50,000 written comments and expects that number to double by the end of the extended comment period.

The Corps requests that comments be sent to the Department of the Army, Walla Walla District Corps of Engineers, Attn: Lower Snake River Study; 201 North Third Avenue, Walla Walla, WA 99362, or by faxing comments to (509) 527-7832.

For more information on the Corps' Lower Snake River FR/EIS visit www.nww.usace.army.mil.

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